LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Strawberry Cure for Gout.

THE season of strawberries is at hand, but doctors are full of fads, and for the most part forbid them to the gouty. Let me put heart into those unfortunate persons to withstand a cruel medical tyranny by quoting the experience of the great Linnæus. It will be found in the biographical notes, written by himself in excellent dog-latin, and published in the Life of him by Dr. H. Stoever, translated from German into English by Joseph Trapp, 1794. Linnæus describes the goutiness of his constitution in p. 416 (*cf.* p. 415), and says that in 1750 he was attacked so severely by sciatica that he could hardly make his way home. The pain kept him awake during a whole week. He asked for opium, but a friend dissuaded it. Then his wife suggested, "Won't you eat strawberries?" It was the season for them. Linnæus, in the spirit of an experimental philosopher, replied, "*tentabo*—I will make the trial." He did so, and quickly fell into a sweet sleep that lasted two hours, and when he awoke the pain had sensibly diminished. He asked whether any strawberries were left: there were some, and he eat them all. Then he slept right away till morning. On the next day he devoured as many strawberries as he could, and on the subsequent morning the pain was wholly gone, and he was able to leave his bed. Gouty pains returned at the same date in the next year, but were again wholly driven off by the delicious fruit; similarly in the third year. Linnæus died soon after, so the experiment ceased.

What lucrative schemes are suggested by this narrative. Why should gouty persons drink nasty waters, at stuffy foreign Spas, when strawberry gardens abound in England? Let enthusiastic young doctors throw heart and soul into the new system. Let a company be run to build a Curhaus in Kent, and let them offer me board and lodging gratis in return for my valuable hints.

F. G.

Distant Sounds.

WHEN the Prince of Wales reviewed great squadrons at the Jubilee review, only one gentleman from Wimbledon, and myself, recorded hearing the salutes near London. I think it worth while, therefore, to note that what seemed to be the thumping sound of heavy guns was to be heard here to-day, from half-past five to a quarter to six p.m., Greenwich time; and even *felt* in the chest.

Some of your other correspondents may be able to tell where the guns—if guns—were fired. The importance of the subject seems to require no remark from me.

I sit in a one-storied building, as far remote from street noises, perhaps, as is possible in London, except in one or two great private gardens, or in the parks. No road is within fifty feet of me; and I know all my neighbours' noises, and have been used to the sound of old-fashioned guns up to 1894.

W. F. SINCLAIR.

102 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, London, S.W., June 2.

THE JUBILEE OF SIR GEORGE GABRIEL STOKES.

THE close of the present Easter term coincides with the end of the fiftieth year of the tenure by Sir George Gabriel Stokes of the Lucasian Professorship at Cambridge. Born in 1819, the same year as our Sovereign, he entered Pembroke College the year of Queen Victoria's Accession. In 1841 he took his degree as Senior Wrangler, the earliest of the wonderful group of Cambridge mathematicians—Stokes, Cayley, Adams—who occupied that position in three successive years. It has been one of the most pleasing features of the recent jubilee that Mr. H. Cadman Jones, who was second to Stokes both in the Mathematical Tripos and in the contest for the Smith's Prize, has been able to come to Cambridge to offer his congratulations to his old friend and competitor.

In the long history of the University several chairs have been held by the same professor for more than fifty years. Prof. R. Plumtre, of Queens', was Regius Professor of Physic from 1741 to 1793; Thomas Martyn, of Sidney Sussex, was Professor of Botany from 1761 to 1825; and Adam Sedgwick held the Woodwardian Chair of Geology from 1818 to 1873; but this is the first time in the history of the University that the occasion has been officially celebrated.

In the course of his long life Sir George Stokes has been first Secretary and later President of the Royal Society. He presided over the British Association in 1869. He represented the University in Parliament from 1887 to the dissolution in 1891, and was created a baronet in 1889. He has received the Rumford and the Copley medal from the Royal Society, and is a D.C.L. of Oxford, a LL.D. of Cambridge, Edinburgh and Dublin, and a ScD. of Cambridge. Amongst the numerous honours which have been showered upon him from abroad, he is a Knight of the Prussian order "Pour le Mérite," a distinction he shares with but four or five at most of his countrymen.

This is not the place to enumerate or appreciate the vast volume of published work which Prof. Stokes has produced within the last fifty years. A quarter of a century ago one of his most distinguished pupils, Prof. Tait, attempted in these pages to give some account of the magnificent series of papers we owe to Sir George. The portrait which accompanied Prof. Tait's article is still strikingly like the original; it seems strange that five-and-twenty years should have left so little trace in those finely-moulded features.

The celebration of the jubilee commenced with the delivery of the Rede Lecture by Prof. Cornu, of the École Polytechnique of Paris. The subject of the lecture was "The Wave Theory of Light, its Influence on Modern Physics." The endowment of this lecture was left to the University as long ago as 1524 by Sir Robert Rede, Lord Chief Justice in Henry VIII.'s reign, and this is the first time that it has been delivered by a foreigner. Prof. Cornu spoke in French, and both the brilliancy of his matter and the charm of his elocution made a deep impression on his audience. Prof. Cornu, in mentioning the works of Newton, Young, Clerk Maxwell, Rayleigh, Kelvin and Stokes, paid a splendid tribute to those mathematical studies which have ever been the chief glory of Cambridge.

Sir George Stokes's College, Pembroke, entertained a distinguished company at dinner on Thursday evening. The delegates from the various Universities and learned Societies were present, and many of the former members of the Society assembled to do honour to their most distinguished graduate. As it was necessary for the company to adjourn at nine o'clock to the Fitzwilliam Museum, there were no speeches, but the health of Sir George was drunk amidst a scene of rare enthusiasm.

The Fitzwilliam Museum is admirably adapted for the purposes of an evening reception. Lit up by electric light, the walls of its spacious galleries hung with pictures, and its floor covered with a crowd dressed in the robes of the various institutions that had sent delegates, it presented a most brilliant spectacle. The guests were received by the Vice-Chancellor, supported by his Esquire Bedells. During the course of the evening a bust of Sir George Stokes, executed by Mr. W. Hamo Thornycroft, was presented to Pembroke College, and a replica was at the same time given to the University. Lord Kelvin, on behalf of the subscribers, presented the busts, and in doing so he remarked that the assembly was taking part in the celebration of a great man and of natural philosophy in the University of Cambridge—natural philosophy in the broadest sense of the term, of which foundations had been laid by Sir George Stokes that would render the nineteenth century memorable in future centuries. Sir George Stokes commenced as an undergraduate in Pembroke College: his first experimental work was made when he was a junior Fellow. He (Lord Kelvin) well remembered that in Pembroke College there were no physical laboratories, and the first physical laboratory in European Universities, he believed—certainly in these islands—was in Sir George Stokes's rooms, which he occupied as a junior Fellow about the year 1840 to 1843. If they considered the condition of natural philosophy in 1840 and in the present year, they might form some idea of how vast had been the results of his labours. Lord Kelvin pointed out that Sir George Stokes had the courage and spirit to take up subjects absolutely beyond the range of all the mathematicians of his age. Sound, light, elasticity, mathematical problems on the one hand, properties of matter on the other, were his studies, and the results had been of splendid benefit to the world of science. To him was due the credit for having published in lectures, if not in print, the grand theory of spectrum analysis. But his published papers contained but a small part of the work he had done for science. All workers in science in the University of Cambridge, all the communicators of papers to the Royal Society during the thirty years he was Secretary and the five years he was President, would agree with him in saying that Sir George Stokes had published in his own name but a very small part of the good he had done to the world. There was a debt of gratitude due to him, not only for what he had published, but for what he had done for others. He had published papers, and the discoveries contained therein had produced a monument more enduring than marble. But, still, they would like to have a marble monument, a tangible and visible sign for the men who knew him and the work he had done; and, therefore, it was a great privilege indeed to be allowed to unveil the two busts, one designed for the University of Cambridge and the other for Pembroke College.

The busts were received by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the University and—in the absence, through ill-health, of the Master—by the Rev. C. H. Prior, Senior Tutor of Pembroke, on behalf of the College. We are informed that Mr. Hamo Thornycroft will undertake the production of bronze copies of his bust of Sir George Stokes, about one-third of the size of the original, at a cost of seven guineas each, in case more than twenty-five are ordered. Names will be received by Sir William Crookes, 7 Kensington Park Gardens, W., and by Prof. Perry, Royal College of Science, S.W.

On Friday, June 2, the more important functions of the jubilee took place. At 11 a.m. the delegates were received by the Vice-Chancellor in the Senate House, and in the chronological order of the foundation of the institutions they represented, they tendered their addresses of congratulation to Sir George Stokes. The name of each delegate and of the institution he represented was announced by Mr. J. W. Clark, the Registrary. The delegate then advanced and presented his address to the Vice-Chancellor, who handed it to Sir George Stokes. At the close of the presentation Sir George, in a short speech, said he often thought in reviewing a long life that he might have worked harder, and he attributed his longevity to his "comparative idleness," a sentiment which found considerable favour with the undergraduates in the gallery.

The presentation commenced with the delegates from the University of Paris, and the following is a list of the institutions represented and of those chosen to represent them:—

University of France—Prof. Gaston Darboux, Doyen de la Faculté des Sciences.

University of Oxford—Sir William Reynell Anson, Bart., M.P., and Robert Edward Baynes, M.A., Lee's Reader in Physics.

University of St. Andrews—P. R. Scott Lang, M.A., Regius Professor of Mathematics.

University of Glasgow—Very Rev. Robert Herbert Story, D.D., Principal, and Lord Kelvin, M.A., Hon. LL.D., G.C.V.O.

University of Aberdeen—Sir William Duguid Geddes, LL.D., Principal.

University of Edinburgh—George Chrystal, M.A, Professor of Mathematics, and G. F. Armstrong, M.A., Professor of Engineering.

University of Dublin—George Salmon, D.D., Provost, and Benjamin Williamson, M.A., D.Sc.

Royal Society—Lord Lister, Hon. LL.D., President; Alfred Bray Kempe, M.A., Treasurer; Michael Foster, M.A., Professor of Physiology; Arthur William Rücker, M.A. (Oxon.), Professor of Physics, Royal College of Science, Secretaries.

Académie des Sciences, Paris—Prof. Becquerel.

Königliche Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin—Friedrich Kohlrausch, Director of the Physikalisch Technische Reichsanstalt, Charlottenburg.

Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen—Edward Riecke, Professor of Physics.

New York, Columbia University—Robert S. Woodward, Ph.D., Professor of Mechanics and Mathematical Physics, Dean of the Faculty of Pure Science.

Princeton University, New Jersey—Prof. Edgar Odele Lovett.

Bataafsch Genootschap voor Physika, Rotterdam—Dr. Elie van Rijckevorsel.

Académie Royale des Sciences des Lettres et des Beaux Arts de Belgique—Prof. Alphonse Rénard, Prof. G. Van der Mensbrugghe.

Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society—Reginald Felix Gwyther, M.A., Sen. Sec.

Royal Irish Academy—Earl of Rosse, K.P., President, George F. FitzGerald, M.A., Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Trinity College, Dublin.

Royal Society of Edinburgh—Lord Kelvin, M.A., Hon. LL.D., President, and Sir John Murray, K.C.B., Hon. Sc.D.

St. Edmund's College, Ware—Right Rev. J. L. Patterson, M.A. (Oxon.), Titular Bishop of Emmaus.

École Polytechnique—Prof. Cornu and Prof. Becquerel.

École Normale Supérieure—Mons. Borel, Professor of Mechanics and Astronomy.

Royal Institution—Sir J. Crichton Browne, M.D. (Edinb.), Treasurer.

Philosophical Society of Glasgow—Lord Blythswood.

Cambridge Philosophical Society—Joseph Larmor, M.A., President.

Royal Astronomical Society—George Howard Darwin, M.A., Plumian Professor of Astronomy, President.

McGill University, Montreal—Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, Hon. LL.D., G.C.M.G., High Commissioner in Great Britain of the Dominion of Canada, Henry Taylor Bovey, M.A., Professor of Engineering.

University of Toronto—R. Ramsay Wright, M.A., B.Sc., Professor of Biology.

St. David's College, Lampeter—A. W. Scott, M.A., Trinity College (Dubl.), Professor of Physical Science and Mathematics.

Institution of Civil Engineers—William Henry Preece, C.B., President.

King's College, London—Archibald Robertson, D.D. (Durham), Principal.

British Association—Sir William Crookes, President.

University of Durham—Ralph Allen Sampson, M.A., Professor of Mathematics.

Cambridge Ray Club—Alfred Newton, M.A., Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy.

London Chemical Society—Dr. T. E. Thorpe.

Queen's College, Belfast—Thomas Hamilton, D.D., President.

Queen's College, Galway—Alexander Anderson, M.A., President.

University of Sydney—Philip Sydney Jones, M.D. (Lond.), Fellow of the Senate of the University of Sydney.

Royal College of Science, London—John Wesley Judd, C.B. LL.D., Dean; W. A. Tilden, Professor of Chemistry.

The Owens College, Manchester—Alfred Hopkinson, Q.C., M.A., Principal.

Royal Academies of Sciences of Amsterdam—J. D. van der Waals, Professor of Experimental Physics.

University of Bombay—Dr. H. M. Birdwood, M.A., C.S.I.

University of Calcutta—Hon. J. O'Kinealy, M.A , Judge of H.M.'s High Court of Bengal.

University of Madras—Hon. H. H. Shephard, M.A., Puisne Judge of the High Court of Madras.

London Mathematical Society—Lord Kelvin, M.A., Hon. LL.D., President.

University of Tokio, Keishiro Matsui, Chargé d'Affaires, Japanese Legation, London.

University of New Zealand—Edward John Routh, M.A., Sc.D.

Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne—Henry Palin Gurney, M.A., Principal.

University of Adelaide—Horace Lamb, M.A., Professor of Mathematics in Owens College, Manchester.

University College of Wales, Aberystwyth—Robert Davies Roberts, M.A.

Yorkshire College, Leeds—Leonard J. Rogers, M.A., Professor of Mathematics.

Physical Society of London—Oliver J. Lodge, D.Sc., Professor of Physics, University College, Liverpool, President.

Mason College, Birmingham—John Henry Poynting, Sc.D., Professor of Physics.

Baltimore (Johns Hopkins)—Simon Newcomb, Hon. Sc.D., LL.D., Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy; and Professor Ames.

Firth College, Sheffield—William Mitchinson Hicks, Sc.D., Principal.

University College, Bristol—Frank R. Barrell, M.A., Professor of Mathematics.

City and Guilds of London Institute for Advancement of Technical Education—Sir Frederick Abel, Bart.

University College, Dundee—John Yule Mackay, Principal.

University College, Nottingham—John Elliotson Symes, M.A., Principal.

Victoria University—Nathan Bodington, Litt.D., Vice-Chancellor.

Royal University of Ireland—Right Rev. Monsignor Molloy, D D., D.Sc.

Royal College of Science for Ireland—Walter Noël Hartley, Professor of Chemistry.

University College, Liverpool—Richard Tetley Glazebrook, M.A., Principal.

University of the Punjab—Sir Charles Arthur Roe, M.A., late First Judge of the Chief Court, Punjab; late Vice-Chancellor of the University.

University College of South Wales, Cardiff—H. W. Lloyd Tanner, M.A. (Oxon.), Professor of Mathematics.

University College of North Wales, Bangor—Henry R. Reichel, M.A. (Oxon.), Principal.

Royal Indian Engineering College, Coopers Hill—Prof. A. Lodge, M.A. (Oxon.), Professor of Mathematics.

University of Allahabad—G. Thibaut, Ph.D., Principal of the Muir Central College, Allahabad.

University of Wales—J. Viriamu Jones, M.A., Vice-Chancellor.

In addition to the delegates officially appointed, the University entertained a number of distinguished guests, amongst whom the names of the following may be mentioned :—

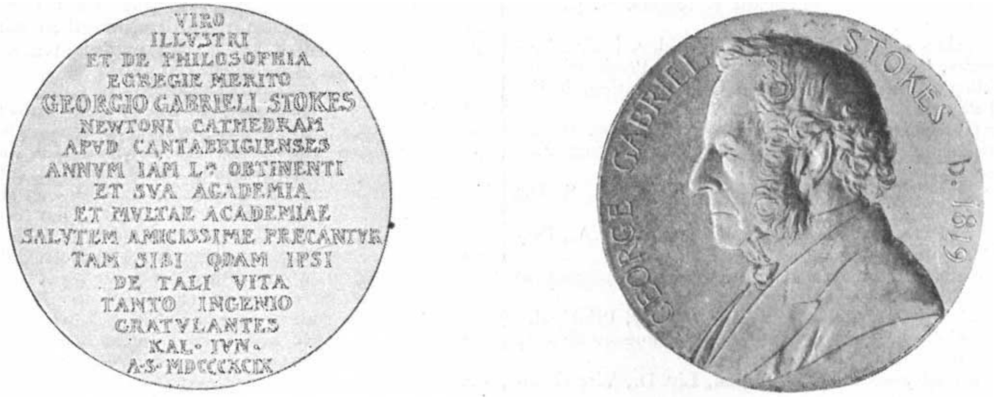
Captain Abney, C.B., S. Kensington; Prof. W. G. Adams, King's College, London; Prof. H. E. Armstrong, City and Guilds Institute, S. Kensington; Prof. Arrhenius, Stockholm; Prof. Ayrton, City and Guilds Institute, S. Kensington; Prof. Barker, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, U.S.A.; Mr. Shelford Bidwell; Dr. Bottomley, The University, Glasgow; Mr. C. V. Boys, London; Sir Frederick Bramwell, Bart.; Dr. Haig Brown; Prof. W. Burnside, Greenwich; Prof. Clifton, Oxford; Prof. Egoroff, St. Petersburg; Prof. Esson, Oxford; Sir John Evans, K.C.B.; Prof. Carey Foster, London; Dr. F. Galton; Sir A. Geikie; Prof. Andrew Gray, Bangor; Prof. Hele-Shaw; Mr. Hubert Herkomer, R.A.; Sir J. D. Hooker, C.B., G.C.S.I.; Prof. J. Joly, Dublin; Prof. Kayser, Bonn; the Hon. Sir W. R. Kennedy; Sir J. Norman Lockyer, K.C.B.; Major P. A. MacMahon; Prof. van der Mensbrugge, Ghent; Prof. Michelson, Chicago; Prof. G. M. Minchin, Coopers Hill; Prof. G. Mittag-Leffler, Stockholm; Mr. Ludwig Mond; Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton, M.P., Q.C.; Prof. Nernst, Göttingen; Prof. Karl Pearson, University College, London; Prof. Perry, Royal College of Science; Sir John Phear; Prof. Quincke, Heidelberg; Lord Rayleigh, Lord Lieutenant of Essex; Prof. H. F. Reid, Baltimore; Prof. Osborne Reynolds, Manchester; Sir W. C. Roberts-Austen, K.C.B., Royal College of Science, London; Sir Henry E. Roscoe, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London; The Rev. Dr. Salmon, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin; Prof. Schuster, Manchester; Sir R. Strachey, G.C.S.I.; Mr. J. W. Swan; Mr. H. Thornycroft, R.A.; Prof. H. H. Turner, Oxford; Prof. Voigt, Göttingen; Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Wakefield; Rear-Admiral Sir William Wharton, K.C.B.; Sir W. H. White, K.C.B.

At 1.30 the Vice-Chancellor gave a lunch at Downing College to some 400 of the delegates and their hosts, and at 2.45 a congregation was held in the Senate House at which his Grace the Chancellor presided. The following address from the University was then read by Dr. Sandys, the Public Orator, and presented to Sir George Stokes, accompanied by a gold medal struck to commemorate the occasion.

> Quod per annos quinquaginta inter nosmet ipsos Professoris munus tam praeclare ornavisti, et tibi, vir venerabilis, et nobis ipsis vehementer gratulamur. Iuvat vitam tam longam, tam serenam, tot studiorum fructibus maturis felicem, tot tantisque honoribus illustrem, tanta morum modestia et benignitate insignem, hodie paulisper contemplari. Anno eodem, quo Regina nostra Victoria insularum nostrarum solio et sceptro potita est, ipse eodem aetatis anno Newtoni nostri Universitatem iuvenis petisti, Newtoni cathedram postea per decem lustra ornaturus, Newtoni exemplum et in Senatu Britannico et in Societate Regia ante oculos habiturus, Newtoni vestigia in scientiarum terminis proferendeis pressurus et ingenii tanti imaginem etiam nostro in saeculo praesentem redditurus. Olim studiorum mathematicorum e certamine laurea prima reportata, postea (ne plura commemoremus) primum aquae et immotae et turbatae rationes, quae hydrostatica et hydrodynamica nominantur, subtilissime examinasti; deinde vel aquae vel aëris fluctibus corporum motus paulatim tardatos minutissime perpendisti; lucis denique leges obscuras ingenii tui lumine luculenter illustrasti. Idem etiam scientiae mathematicae in puro quodam caelo diu vixisti, atque hominum e controversiis procul remotus, sapientiae quasi in templo quodam sereno per vitam totam securus habitasti. In posterum autem famam diuturnam tibi propterea praesertim auguramur, quod, in inventis tuis pervulgandis perquam cautus et consideratus, nihil praeproperum, nihil immaturum, nihil temporis cursu postea obsolefactum, sed omnia matura et perfecta, omnia omnibus numeris absoluta, protulisti. Talia propter merita non modo in insulis nostris doctrinae sedes septem te doctorem honoris causa nominaverunt, sed etiam exterae gentes honoribus eximiis certatim cumulaverunt. Hodie eodem doctoris titulo studiorum tuorum socios nonnullos exteris e gentibus ad nos advectos, et ipsorum et tuum in honorem, velut exempli causa, libenter ornamus. In perpetuum denique observantiae nostrae et reverentiae testimonium, in honorem alumni diu a nobis dilecti et ab aliis nomismate honorifico non uno donati, ipsi nomisma novum cudendum curavimus. In honore nostro novo in te primum conferendo, inter vitae ante actae gratulationes, tibi omnia prospera etiam in posterum exoptamus.

The medal was designed by Mr. De Saulles, who designed the jubilee medals, and bears the head of the recipient in profile on the obverse, and some lines in Latin written by the Master of Trinity on the reverse. By the courtesy of the University Press, we are able to give the accompanying illustrations of the medal. The likeness is remarkably good, and the medal, replicas of which, in bronze, will be presented to the official delegates, was universally admired. We are informed that copies in bronze of the medal may be obtained from Messrs. Macmillan and Bowes. The number of medals struck is limited.

After the medal had been presented to Sir George by the Chancellor, Prof. Cornu advanced and presented on behalf of the Institute of France a copy of the Arago medal in gold. Immediately after the ceremony, honorary degrees of Doctor of Science were conferred upon the following distinguished visitors:—Prof. M. A. Cornu, Member of the Institute of France, Professor of Experimental Physics in the École Polytechnique of Paris; Prof. J. G. Darboux, Member of the Institute of France and Professor of Higher Geometry in the University of Paris; Prof. A. A. Michelson, Professor of Experimental Physics in the University of Chicago; Prof. M. G. Mittag-Leffler, Professor of Pure Mathematics at Stockholm; Prof. G. H. Quincke, Professor of Experimental Physics in the University of Heidelberg; and Prof. W. Voigt, Professor of Mathematical Physics in the University of Göttingen. Prof. F. W. G. Kohlrausch, Director of the Physikalisch-Technische Reichstanstalt, Charlottenburg, was unfortunately deterred by illness from attending to receive the degree which the University had been anxious to confer upon him.



The Stokes Jubilee Medal.

The following are the speeches delivered by the Public Orator in presenting to his Grace the Chancellor the several recipients of the honorary degree.

(1) PROF. CORNU (PARIS).

Primum vobis praesento artium plurimarum Scholae Parisiensis professorem, quem in hoc ipso loco die hesterno perspicuitate solita disserentem audivistis, virum non modo solis de lumine in partes suas solvendo, sed etiam orbis terrarum de mole metienda per annos plurimos praeclare meritum. Lucis in natura explicanda, quanta cum doctrinae elegantia, quanta cum experimentorum subtilitate, quam diu versatus est. Idem quam accurate velocitatem illam est dimensus, qua per aeris intervallum immensum lucis simulacra minutissima transvolitant,

> "suppeditatur enim confestim lumine lumen,
> et quasi protelo stimulatur fulgere fulgur."

Lucis transmittendae in *λαμπαδηφορίᾳ* quam feliciter lampada a suis sibi traditam ipse etiam trans aequor Atlanticum alii tradidit.

(2) PROF. DARBOUX (PARIS).

Sequitur deinceps vir insignis Nemausi natus, Parisiensium in Universitate illustri geometriam diu professus et scientiarum facultati toti praepositus. Peritis nota sunt quattuor illa volumina, in quibus superficierum rationem universam inclusit; etiam pluribus notum est, quantum patriae legatus deliberationibus illis profuerit, quae a Societate nostra Regia primum institutae, id potissimum spectant, ut omnibus e gentibus quicquid a scientiarum cultoribus conquiritur, indicis unius in thesaurum, gentium omnium ad fructum, in posterum conferatur. Incepto tanto talium virorum auxilio ad exitum perducto, inter omnes gentes ei qui rerum naturae praesertim scientiam excolunt, sine dubio vinculis artioribus inter sese coniungentur.

(3) PROF. MICHELSON (CHICAGO).

Trans aequor Atlanticum ad nos advectus est vir insignis, qui ea quae professor noster Lucasianus de aetheris immensi regione, in qua lux propagatur, orbis terrarum motu perturbata, olim praesagiebat, ipse experimentis exquisitis adhibitis penitus exploravit. Lucis explorandae in provincia is certe scientiarum inter lumina numeratur, qui olim fratrum nostrorum transmarinorum in classe non ignotus, lampade trans oceanum e Gallia sibi tradita feliciter accepta, etiam exteris gentibus subito affulsit, velocitatem immensam eleganter dimensus, qua lucis fluctus videntur (ut Lucretii verbis utar)

> "per totum caeli spatium diffundere sese,
> perque volare mare ac terras, caelumque rigare."

(4) PROF. MITTAG-LEFFLER (STOCKHOLM).

Scandinavia ad nos misit scientiae mathematicae professorem illustrem, qui studiorum suorum velut e campo puro laudem plurimam victor reportavit. Idem Regis sui auspiciis, qui praemiis propositis magnum huic scientiae attulit adiumentum, etiam exterarum gentium ad communem fructum prope viginti per annos Acta illa Mathematica edidit, quae in his studiis quasi gentium omnium internuntium esse dixerim. Ipse Homerus (ut Pindari versus verbo uno tantum mutato proferam) *ἄγγελον ἐσλὸν ἔφα τιμὰν μεγίσταν πράγματι παντὶ φέρειν· αὔξεται καὶ Μάθησις δι᾽ ἀγγελίας ὀρθᾶς.*

(5) PROF. QUINCKE (HEIDELBERG).

Universitatem Heidelbergensem abhinc annos quadraginta professorum par nobile spectroscopo invento in perpetuum illustravit. Adest inde discipulorum plurimorum in scientia physica praeceptor, qui et in instrumentis novis inveniendis sollertiam singularem et in eisdem adhibendis industriam indefessam praestitit. Ei qui in scientiae physicae ratione universa versati, viri huiusce inventis utuntur, etiam de sua scientia verum esse confitebuntur, quod de arte oratoria praesertim dixit Quintilianus:—"in omnibus fere minus valent praecepta quam experimenta."

(6) PROF. VOIGT (GÖTTINGEN).

Universitatem Goettingensem, a Rege nostro Hanoveriensi Georgio secundo conditam, vinculo non uno cum Universitate nostra coniunctam esse constat. Constat eandem etiam per annos prope quinquaginta Caroli Frederici Gaussii, scientiae mathematicae et physicae professoris celeberrimi, gloria esse illustratam, qui cum ingenio fecundissimo disserendi genus consummatum coniunxit. Iuvat inde professorem ad nos advectum excipere, qui scientiae eiusdem pulcherrimam nactus provinciam, etiam lucem ipsam et crystalla ingenii sui lumine illustravit.

After the congregation, a garden party was held in the beautiful old gardens of Pembroke College, where a numerous and brilliant company assembled and listened to the music of the Royal Artillery Band.

In the evening, a dinner, at which were present some 220 of the guests of the University and their hosts, took place in Trinity College Hall. His Grace the Duke of Devonshire presided, and after the health of the Queen had been drunk he proposed, in a felicitous speech, the health of the hero of the day. The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. The only other toasts were "The Guests," proposed by Prof. George Darwin, and responded to by Lord Lister; and "The Chancellor," proposed by the Vice-Chancellor. In responding, the Chancellor thanked the Master and Fellows and Trinity for their hospitality in granting the use of the Hall, and Dr. Butler replied on behalf of the College.

In addition to the guests who were more directly associated with the celebration of the jubilee, the following were present at the banquet :—Mr. Justice Mathew, the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Bishop of Ely, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, and many other distinguished guests.

This dinner brought the official proceedings to an end, but on Monday a meeting of the Philosophical Society was held for the presentation of papers to be published in a special volume of the Society's *Transactions* commemorative of the long connection of Sir G. G. Stokes with the Society. The following are amongst those who formally communicated papers :—

I. By Prof. M. G. Mittag-Leffler: On the analytical representation of a uniform branch of a monogenic function.
II. By Prof. H. Poincaré : The theory of groups.
III. By Dr. L. Boltzmann :
IV. By Prof. A. Righi :
V. By Prof. A. A. Michelson : On the echelon spectroscope.
VI. By Major P. A. Macmahon, R.A. : Application of the partition analysis to the study of the properties of any system of consecutive integers.
VII. By Lord Kelvin : On diffraction of solitary waves.
VIII. By Prof. A. Schuster : On the periodogram of magnetic declination derived from twenty-five years' observations at the Greenwich Observatory.
IX. By Prof. W. D. Niven : A general method of determining free electric distributions by successive approximations.
X. By Prof. G. D. Liveing : The influence of temperature on the absorption spectra of salts.
XI. By Prof. A. R. Forsyth : On the integrals of systems of differential equations.
XII. By Mr. J. Larmor : On the general theory of the optical relations of magnetism.

Together with papers by Prof. J. J. Thomson, Dr. E. W. Hobson, Mr. E. H. Griffiths, Mr. W. N. Shaw, Mr. E. W. Brown, and Mr. H. M. Macdonald.

In conclusion, it may be stated that from beginning to end the celebration was a complete success. The weather played an important part in securing this success, but the thanks of all who assisted at the jubilee must also be tendered to those at Cambridge who took such careful forethought for their convenience and comfort.

The Cambridge Review for June 1 publishes several contributions referring to the jubilee, and issues as a special supplement an excellent portrait of Sir George Stokes. Prof. J. J. Thomson gives an appreciative account of the scientific career and work of the esteemed Lucasian Professor. In concluding the article, he remarks :—

"By his researches on hydrodynamics he has founded a new branch of the science ; in optics he has, to use the words of Lord Kelvin, been the teacher and guide of his contemporaries ; he was the first to enunciate in his lectures the principles on which spectrum analysis is founded ; he unravelled the laws of fluorescence ; he investigated the variation of gravity over the surface of the earth ; he has solved problems of the greatest difficulty in pure mathematics ; while the latest of his long series of researches is his remarkable paper on the nature of the Röntgen rays. His papers are the classics of science ; they are remarkable, not only for the results obtained, but also for their perfect clearness of expression and thought, for the elegance of the mathematical methods, for their maturity of judgment and for that care and finish on which so much of the impressiveness of a paper depends.

The little more and how much it is,
The little less and what worlds away.

These researches show the combination of supreme mathematical and experimental power ; with simple apparatus and without the appliances which are now at the command of physicists, he has made experiments which have settled some of the most crucial points in optics, and which will be quoted as long as science exists. The rooms in Pembroke, where he made many of his experiments, will in the history of science and of the University be associated with those in the Old Court of Trinity, where Newton made the prism reveal the nature of white light. And, indeed, there are many points of resemblance between the careers of Newton and of Stokes : both held the Lucasian Professorship, both were Presidents of the Royal Society, both represented the University in Parliament ; and the resemblance is not confined to the offices they held, it extends to their type of mind. Often, in reading Stokes's papers, we feel this is just how Newton would have treated this point, these are the deductions which Newton would have drawn."

Prof. Jebb contributes the following ode to the *Cambridge Review.*

TO SIR GEORGE GABRIEL STOKES.

JUNE 1, 1899.

Clear mind, strong heart, true servant of the light,
True to that light within the soul, whose ray,
Pure and serene, hath brightened on thy way,
Honour and praise now crown thee on the height
Of tranquil years. Forgetfulness and night
Shall spare thy fame, when, in some larger day
Of knowledge yet undream'd, time makes a prey
Of many a deed and name that once were bright.

Thou, without haste or pause, from youth to age,
Hast moved with sure steps to thy goal. And thine
That sure renown which sage confirms to sage,
Borne from afar. Yet wisdom shows a sign
Greater, through all thy life, than glory's wage ;
Thy strength has rested on the Love Divine.

CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.

THE celebration of the centenary of the foundation of the Royal Institution was commenced on Monday by a banquet given by the managers of the Institution in the Hall of the Merchant Taylors' Company. The Duke of Northumberland, president of the Institution, occupied the chair. The Prince of Wales was present, and a number of distinguished men of science were among the guests. Reference to a few points connected with the history and work of the Institution were made in the course of the evening. In acknowledging the toast of his health, the Prince of Wales said :

I consider it a great privilege and honour to take part, as vice-patron of this Institution, in the celebration of its 100th anniversary. I had an early acquaintance with the Royal Institution. Although it is nearly half a century ago, I have not forgotten that just after Christmas my brother, the Duke of Coburg, and myself were sent to attend the lectures given by the great Prof. Michael Faraday. I have not forgotten the clear way in which Prof. Faraday explained difficult scientific problems, and showed the chemical experiments which were then the order of the day. Among the most remarkable discoveries with which the Institution is associated is that of Davy, which has saved thousands of lives. It is needless to speak of the researches of Faraday, whom I knew ; and in our own time of the remarkable achievements in several branches of science of Lord Rayleigh. I thank you once more most cordially, and express my high appreciation of this great and important centenary event. I am glad also to see so many distinguished foreigners who have come over to take part in this interesting gathering.

The Duke of Cambridge proposed "The Royal Institution of Great Britain," and in doing so remarked that the declared object of the Institution was the diffusion of knowledge and the